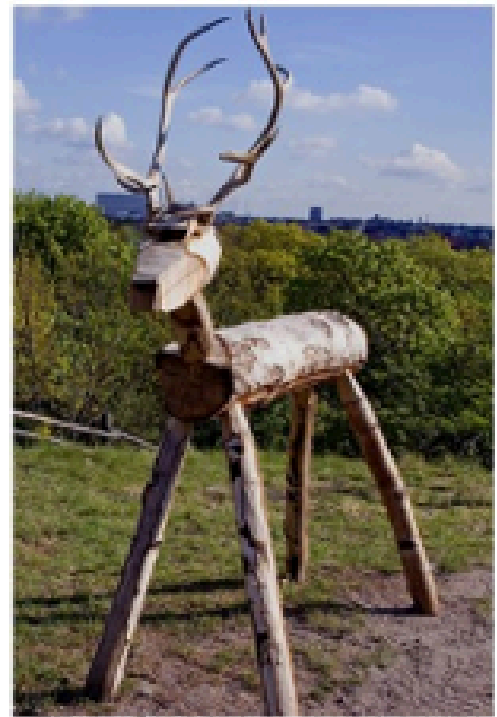


A Long-Term Survival Guide - Make Your Own 3D Targets:



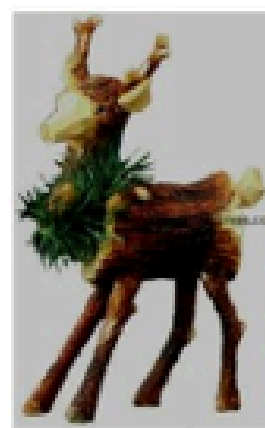
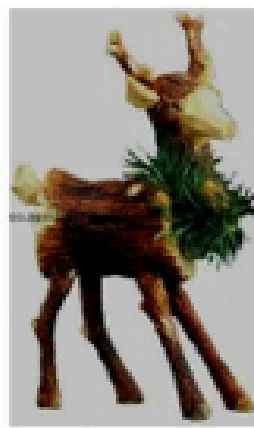
3D targets are great, but expensive. If you want some realistic target practice, but don't want to spend big bucks on a big buck, you can make your own improvised substitutes, like this log deer.



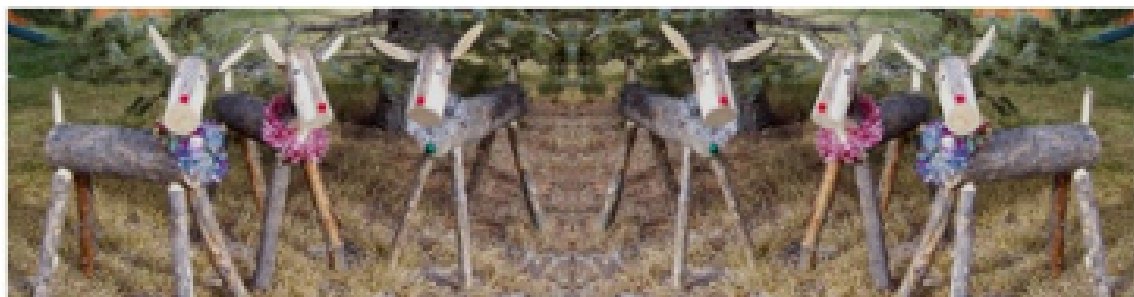
Log deer are easy to make, and fun to have around. There are many different style of log deer, and they could be constructed in any typical deer pose, including standing, sitting, or grazing postures. Targets can be painted, carved, or nailed onto your deer, if desired, or you can leave them natural.



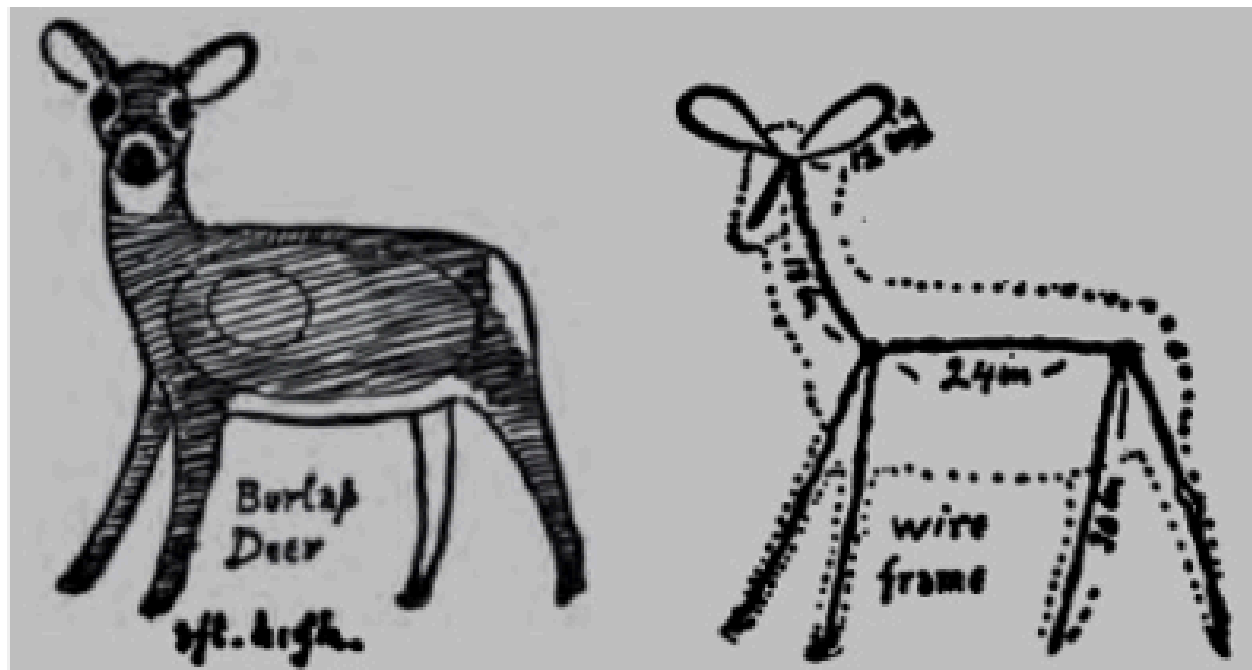
These deer have little wood shavings left on them, to simulate fur, sort of like making fuzz sticks.



A simple design makes a basic log deer, but using bent leg sticks gives a deer more personality.



More ornate deer make good decorations and archery targets, but the basic deer are better to make if you plan to blast them to smithereens right away, unless you don't mind destroying the fancier ones.



Another way to make deer targets is to construct a thin framework of sticks or heavy wire, and then wrap the frame with hay, grass, cattail leaves, or cloth rags, until it is bulked out. Then cover the deer with a skin, made from burlap sacks, or plastic dog food bags, and paint it to look like a deer.



A thin deer-shaped framework, like this, is suitable for bulking out with padding, to make a target.

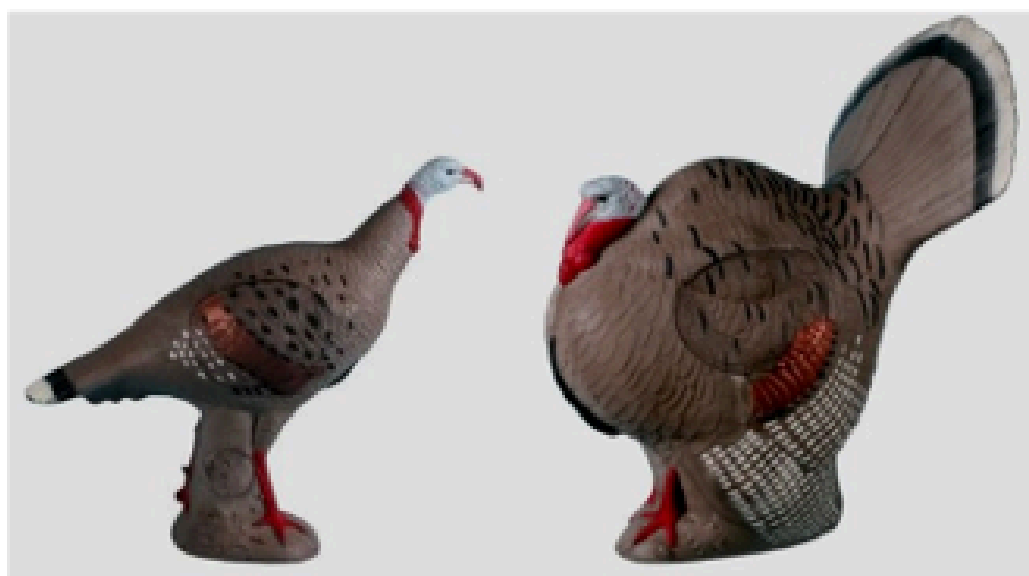


This deer target, affectionately known as "Foamy", was made from plastic foam packing, scrounged from shipping boxes found in the trash. Several sheets of the foam were simply taped together with box tape, and the foam head and neck are held in place with bamboo skewers. The antlers are plastic forks, and ears and tail were cut from plastic jugs. Bamboo legs, and a paper target, finish the job.



Foamy is an amusing target, and he has held up well, to repeated target practice.

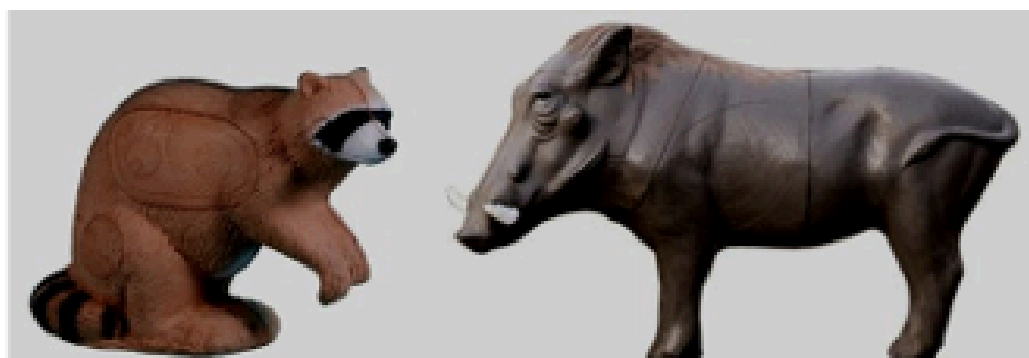
Other Targets: You don't have to limit yourself to deer targets either. Any animal shape can be replicated as a crude improvised target, and then finished to look as realistic as you might wish. Here are some examples of commercially-made animal targets, to use as a reference guide:



Female and male turkeys.



Bobcat, and mountain lion.



Raccoon, and wild boar.



Mountain goat, and bighorn sheep.



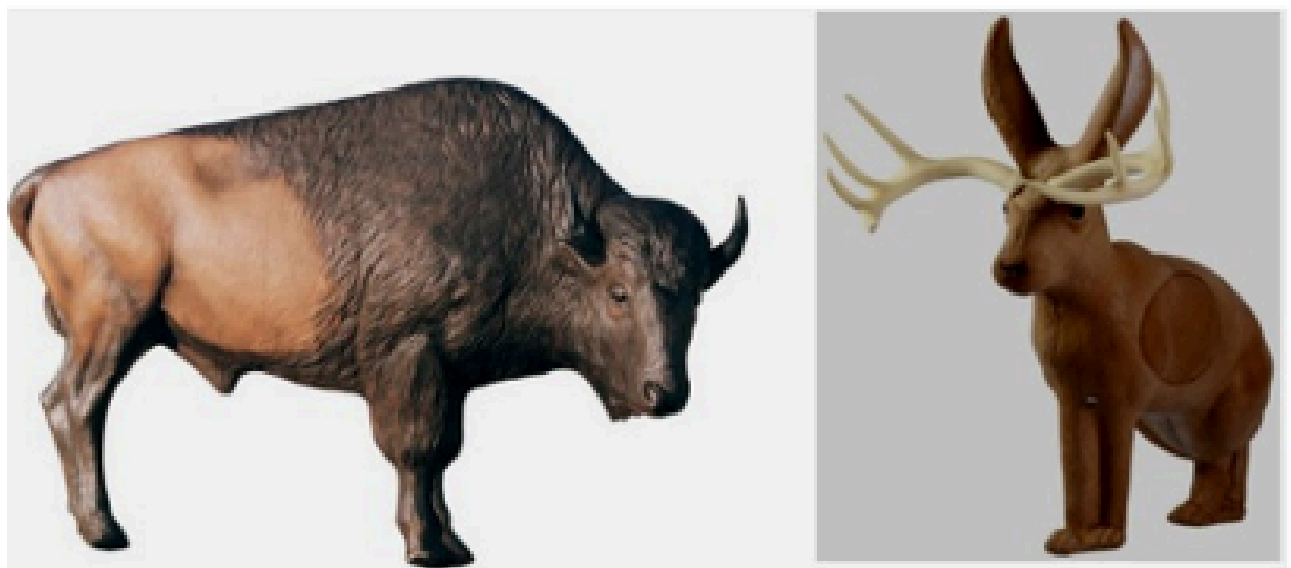
Big-horned sheep, and grazing deer.



Elk, and moose.



Grizzly, and black bear.



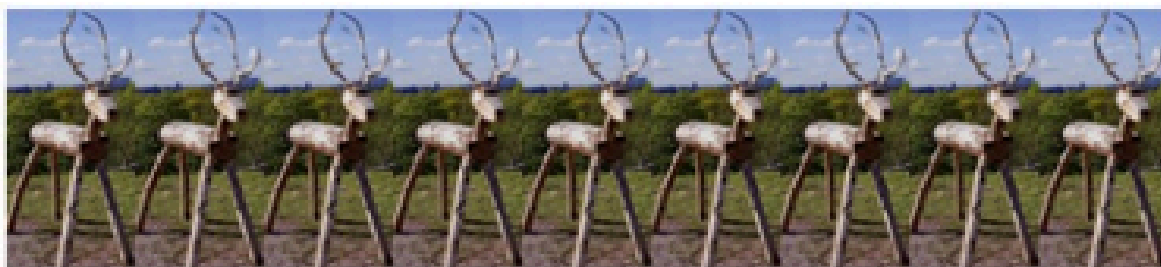
Bison, and the rare and elusive desert jackalope.



Animal shapes are made from available materials, such as cattails, and can be painted, or decorated with fur or feathers, to look more realistic. Larger animals need a stick frame, to keep their shapes.



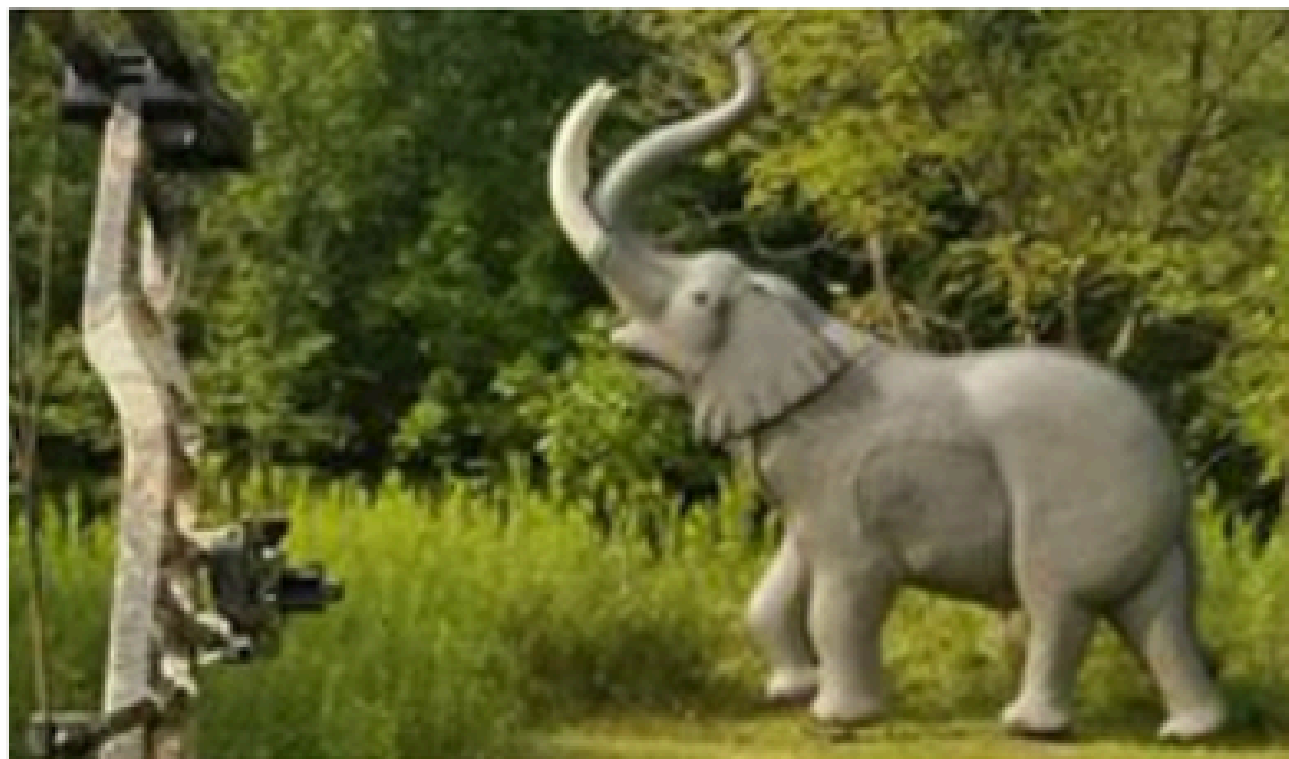
Tactical human-shaped targets, for combat practice, can be made from grass or hay on a frame, much like scarecrows, and then dressed in old clothing. Prop guns can be made for your enemy targets, using PVC pipe and two by fours. A paper target on the chest makes it easier to see hits.



I still like log deer the best, and think that they would make nice fencing, except that such a fence would probably result in drive-by shootings, and those annoying fence poachers. Maybe if the feet were set in concrete, they wouldn't get swiped. Now I'll have to try making some out of bamboo!



This is how layers of foam board (or packing material) can be built up, to make targets.



Making your own targets lets you enjoy shooting animals that would be difficult (or even impossible) in real life. For example, elephant target is much cheaper than African safari.



With 3D targets you can hunt Velociraptors all year long, not just when they are in season!



The *Stegosaurus* is fun to hunt, but the *Thriceatops* is three times as much fun!





I find that hunting Pterodactyls can be “terribly” entertaining!



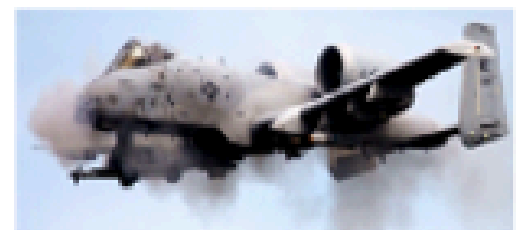
Few things in life are as much fun as blasting away at a life-sized T Rex target!



If you want, you can add plastic fangs and claws (and some fake fur) to your targets, to make them look even more realistic. And hunting these at night will get your pulse racing!



Who could resist the appeal of going on your own dragon-slaying expedition?



With enough foam you could make a larger dragon, and then blast it with an A10 Warthog.



And I have always wanted a chance to hunt the Mastodon, or Woolly Mammoth!



Actual photo of me hunting Mastodon with my sabertooth (after inventing time machine)!